

## KADJU HOUSE

The biggest problem with trad boutique hotels? Sharing them with the other snobby, style conscious guests. Book out this four-bed minimalist dream, however, and you'll only have the smiley staff for company. Dinner is straight from the sea, and the Ayurvedic spa is the perfect stress-buster. *Black Tomato* ([www.blacktomato.co.uk](http://www.blacktomato.co.uk)) has five nights, with Heathrow flights, from £1,499pp, room only.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

# travel

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JANUARY 2010 £3

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Sydney and the Grand Canyon

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The 5 money-saving flight websites you need to know

Plus easy weekends in Madrid, Lisbon, Stockholm & the Red Sea





## 8 Banish...

boring, beige/grey boutique-hotel interiors. They're now so common-or-garden that, from Milan to Mozambique, you're forced to endure them wherever you lay your head. Time for some originality, says **Sacha Smith-Laing**, as she welcomes in the new anti-bland brand



### ALBERGO DIFFUSO, Italy

The Puglian countryside is awash with city-smoothie converted farmhouses: how about a hotel fashioned from an entire Medieval village instead? This 27-room number has taken over artisan-heavy Santo Stefano di Sessanio, but kept the place's crafty, crumbly feel (apart from 21st-century luxuries such as the Philippe Starck baths, that is). *Expressions* ([www.expressionsholidays.co.uk](http://www.expressionsholidays.co.uk)) has five nights, with Heathrow flights and car hire, from £900pp, B&B.



### THE ATLANTIS, Barbados

The antidote to the identikit Home-Countries favourites here, The Atlantis was built in 1863 as the first hotel on the still-unspoilt east coast. This month, it reopens as a cosy, 10-room hideaway, luxuriating in a prime position on the beach – and offering the same Bajan Sunday buffets that made the hotel famous in the first place. *Tropic Breeze* ([www.tropicbreeze.co.uk](http://www.tropicbreeze.co.uk)) has five nights, with Gatwick flights, from £1,075pp, room only.



### NIKOI, Indonesia

Southeast Asia is king of the cookie-cutter teak boutique hotel (petals in bath: compulsory). But this tiny, jungle-clad island, with its 15 driftwood palaces, is different: rooms are twee-free, you'll find a boulder-strewn pool in place of the usual infinity number, and there's a no-plasma, no-plastic rule. As there are no walls either, insects sing you to sleep. *Original Travel* ([www.originaltravel.co.uk](http://www.originaltravel.co.uk)) has five nights, with Heathrow flights, from £1,315pp, room only.



### KASBAH BAB OURIKA, Morocco

Avoid Marrakech's samey, central riads and check in here instead. It may be just 35 minutes outside the city, but this mud-walled eco-retreat comes with 360° Atlas views, hearths, and interiors that merge avant-garde and – yes – alpine. Better still, solar panels and organic waste-converters mean energy for the hotel and the local Berber village. *Tim Best Travel* ([www.timbesttravel.com](http://www.timbesttravel.com)) has five nights, with Gatwick flights, from £478pp, B&B.



### KADJU HOUSE, Sri Lanka

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Bland-free zones: new hotels like the Nikoi are leading a boutique revolution

# thehotlist

12 must-do's for the month ahead.  
Simply pick, tick – and go

